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TAGS: SENV, OTRA, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT

PASS SCI, CEO

REF: A. STATE 135670; B. STATE 132886

-1. EMBASSY VERY MUCH APPRECIATES USEFUL SUMMARY REPORT (PARA 1, REF B) OF DISCUSSIONS HELD IN WASHINGTON WITH DR. IZRAEL AND PARTY. RESULTS OF MEETING JULY 12 WITH KUVSHINNIKOV, KRINITSKIY, AND ZEMSKIY CONCERNING PROBLEMS RAISED IN REFTELS ARE AS FOLLOWS: (FYI: BORIS A. KUVSHINNIKOV, FORMERLY COUNSELOR OF SOVIET PERMDEL TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA, HAS RECENTLY JOINED HYDROMET. HIS TITLE IS COUNSELOR FOR US-USSR COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, ABOUT 50. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH AND IS URBANE, FRIENDLY, AND EFFICIENT. EMBASSY WILL PROBABLY HAVE MUCH INTERACTION WITH HIM ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION. HE APPARENTLY OUT-RANKS KAZAKOV. END FYI)

2. CONCERNING ALPHA HELIX EXPEDITION, SOVIETS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO ELSNER FOR DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE SOVIET WISHES IN DIFFICULT LOGISTICAL SITUATION. THEY HAVE NO COMPLAINTS ON THAT POINT. ZEMSKIY POINTED OUT THAT ONLY SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING WAS THAT HE ALWAYS WAS PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION THAT US SIDE WOULD ABIDE BY RECORD OF JANUARY WILDLIFE MEETING WHICH PROVIDES FOR PARTICIPATION

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OF TWO SOVIETS ON ALPHA HELIX, WHEREAS ELSNER MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ONLY ONE. BUT THIS POINT HAS ALSO BEEN RESOLVED TO SATISFACTION OF BOTH SIDES. BOTH MEN, FEDOSEYEV AND GOLITSEV, WILL ARRIVE AS SCHEDULED JULY 15, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT ONE MAN WILL REMAIN ON LAND DURING FIRST HALF OF EXPEDITION (UNLESS SPACE PROBLEM, BY CHANCE MIGHT CHANGE TO ALLOW BOTH TO PARTICIPATE IN ENTIRE EXPEDITION). SOVIETS APPRECIATE ARRANGEMENTS MADE AT JFK FOR THEM (PARA 2, REF A) AND UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WILL BE MET UPON ARRIVAL. THEY POSSESS PREPAID, OPEN TICKETS TO ANCHORAGE (WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE CHANGED TO FAIRBANKS DESTINATION), AND DO NOT EXPECT US SIDE TO PAY ANY OF TRAVEL COSTS. HOWEVER, THEY UNDERSTAND THAT ALL EXPENSES RELATING TO EXPEDITION AND ACCOMMODATION WITHIN US (INCLUDING PER DIEM) WILL BE PROVIDED BY US SIDE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH JANUARY DISCUSSIONS.

3. RE MIGRATING SWAN PROJECT, KRINITSKIY IS OPPOSED TO SENDING ANYBODY BUT KISHCHINSKIY. IN JUNE 21 LETTER TO SLADEN, PROPOSAL IS MADE TO POSTPONE PROJECT UNTIL OCTOBER-NOVEMBER PERIOD, WHEN IT IS EXPECTED THAT KISHCHINSKIY WILL HAVE RECOVERED SUFFICIENTLY FROM HIS ILLNESS TO PARTICIPATE. KRINITSKIY'S ARGUMENT WAS THAT SLADEN AND KISHCHINSKIY HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE COLLABORATION ON THIS PROJECT FOR SOME TIME NOW, ARE THEMSELVES THE AUTHORS OF THE PROJECT, UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT EACH OTHER, ARE THE MOST HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONS TO IMPLEMENT PROJECT, ETC. HE ADDS THAT KISHCHINSKIY FEELS PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN OCT. OR NOV. WOULD BE JUST AS VALUABLE, ONLY CHANGE BEING THAT SWAN WINTERING RATHER THAN SUMMERING WILL BE INVESTIGATED. IN EVENT THAT KISHCHINSKIY UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE EVEN IF PROJECT POSTPONED, PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND THEN WOULD BE USED BY KISHCHINSKIY TO TRAIN OTHER SCIENTIST TO PARTICIPATE SUCCESSFULL IN THIS PROJECT AT THAT LATER TIME. PLEASE ADVISE. MELENCAMP

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